

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are amended, claims 13 and 14 are cancelled, and claim 16 is newly added. Claims 5 and 11 were cancelled by a previous amendment. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted with Applicant's U.S. representative on July 3, 2007. During the interview, Applicant's U.S. representative proposed claim amendments similar to those set forth herein, although no specific language was agreed upon. The Examiner indicated that such amendments would raise a new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. Therefore, to ensure entry of the present Response, Applicant has filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) concurrently with the present Response as a submission.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,566) in view of Nishikori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,584), and rejected claims 4, 10, 13 and 14 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Nishikori et al., and further in view of Ozawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,248).

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites an electronic endoscope system which includes, inter alia, a scope, an image-signal processing unit, a monitor, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, and a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the image-signal processing unit. The timing controller outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when the endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor, and outputs a

second series of clock pulses having a second frequency higher than the first frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor.

Applicant's independent claim 7 recites an electronic endoscope system which produces a video signal, displays an endoscope-image in accordance with the video signal on a monitor and includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between a first display mode and a second display mode, and a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the electronic endoscope system. The timing controller outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency higher than the first frequency when a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor.

Applicant's newly added independent claim 16 recites an image-signal processing unit which receives image-pixel signals from a scope and outputs endoscope-image-display signals and patient-data-list-display signals to a monitor and includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that controls the image-signal processing unit to change between outputting an endoscope-image display signal to the monitor, and outputting a patient-data-list display signal to the monitor, a processing system and a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the processing system. The timing controller outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image display is outputted to the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency higher than the first frequency when the patient-data-list display signal is outputted to the monitor.

Kanno et al. discloses an image filing system which includes, inter alia, an electronic scope apparatus 201, a video processor apparatus 204, a TV monitor 203 and a host computer 208. See, e.g., Figure 25 and col. 20, lines 43-50 of Kanno et al. The electronic scope apparatus

201 outputs an image signal to the video processor apparatus 204, which processes the image signal and outputs it as a video signal to the TV monitor 203. See, e.g., col. 20, line 51 – col. 21, line 12.

The host computer 208 includes a hard disc apparatus 215. See, e.g., Figure 29 and col. 22, lines 25-37 of Kanno et al. Data base files, including patient data files, are recorded in the hard disc apparatus 215, the contents of which are shown in Figure 30 of Kanno et al. See, e.g., col. 22, lines 50-54 of Kanno et al. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kanno et al. fails to disclose or suggest that the patient data files are displayed on the TV monitor 203. Applicant further submits that Kanno et al. does not disclose a timing controller.

Nishikori et al. discloses an endoscope system 1 which includes, inter alia, a monitor 13, and an operation computer 3. See, e.g., Figure 3 and col. 7, lines 16-30 of Nishikori et al. Figures 15A to 15J of Nishikori et al. illustrate scenes which are displayed on a screen of the operation computer 3. See, e.g., col. 10, lines 52-54 of Nishikori et al. Figure 15(F) of Nishikori et al. shows a scene in which a list of ID numbers and names are displayed. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the screen of the operation computer 3 does not display an endoscope-image-display scene. Rather, Applicant submits that an endoscope image is displayed on the monitor 13. See, e.g., col. 18, line 65 – col. 19, line 23 of Nishikori et al., which discloses that endoscope images are displayed on a monitor. Applicant further submits that Nishikori et al. does not disclose a timing controller.

Ozawa et al. discloses an electronic endoscope which includes a flexible conduit 10 and a video-signal processor 11. See, e.g., Figure 1 and col. 9, lines 20-25. The video-signal processor 11 includes a timing generator 20 which outputs clock pulses. See, e.g., Figure 1 and col. 10, lines 21-27. Applicant respectfully submits that Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest a scene-

changing system that changes a scene displayed on a monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system which includes at least a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on a monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list display scene, much less a timing controller that outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when the endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency higher than the first frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 1.

Similarly, Applicant submits that the combination of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system that displays an endoscope-image in accordance with a video signal on a monitor and includes at least a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between a first display mode and a second display mode which includes a patient-data-list-display scene, and a timing controller which outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency higher than the first frequency when a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 7.

Applicant further submits that the combination of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest an image-signal processing unit of an electronic endoscope system which includes at least a scene-changing system that controls the image-signal processing unit to change between outputting an endoscope-image display signal to a monitor,

and outputting a patient-data-list display signal to the monitor, and a timing controller that outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image display is outputted to the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency higher than the first frequency when the patient-data-list display signal is outputted to the monitor, as recited in Applicant's newly added independent claim 16.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the inventions recited in Applicant's independent claims 1, 7 and 16 are not obvious in view of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al., and Ozawa et al., and thus, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection and allow these claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 12 are in condition for allowance at least in view of their dependency from claims 1 and 7.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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